

Weekly Views

December 9, 2011

A story about the Wabash Valley Shakespeare program garnered top honors for Indiana State University! Jennifer Sicking, Associate Director of Media Relations said their "Shakespeare in Prison" story won a silver award in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District 5 annual competition. ISU completed with universities from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The Jaycees offender organization at the Indiana State Prison donated \$1,000 in toys to the local Salvation Army. These gifts will be given to children in the community.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility recently received congratulations from the American Correctional Association (ACA) Program Review Division for a very successful "Electronic" ACA Facility Review. Putnamville was the first adult facility to successfully complete an electronic audit scoring 100% on mandatory standards and 99.10% on non-mandatory standards. Superintendent Stanley Knight attributed the success to the commitment of staff.

Branchville Correctional Facility installed a new bailer to assist with the facility's recycling program. The machine will allow for more efficient recycling by shrinking large volumes of waste into smaller more manageable bails. The recycling program is supervised by Unit Team Manager Dan Mitchell and operated by Correctional Caseworker Tom Damin along with offenders participating in the Reformatory Residential Re-Entry Program (RRRP) who are in need of community service hours. Offenders need to complete 125 hours of community service to complete the RRRP Program. (See photo right)

The Plainfield Correctional Facility more than doubled their contribution to the State Employees' Community Campaign (SECC) for the year 2011. The 2010 contribution was \$6,510.40, and this year's SECC Campaign Chairman Cathie Ardelean set a goal of \$7,000. As a result of her efforts and great employee support (83 employees participating), a total of \$13,166.40 was raised for a great cause.

The Rockville Correctional Facility's (RCF) CLIFF (Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever) unit has teamed up with Vanderburgh County and Madison County to brighten the holidays of area foster children. Offenders in the CLIFF unit created greeting cards to be distributed to the children who wouldn't otherwise receive such items. This project is one of the many community service initiatives set in motion by RCF CLIFF residents.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center hosted a group of attorneys and social workers from the Marion County Public Defender's Office, where they toured the facility and learned about the intake process for adult males.

Facility Supervisor of Classification Andrew Cole and Re-Entry Program Coordinator Paula Dickson from the Pendleton Correctional Facility were among a group of twelve criminal justice professionals that participated in the "2nd Annual Criminal Justice Career Panel Discussion" held at Harrison College in Anderson, Indiana. According to Harrison College representatives, "the panel discussion was offered to provide students an opportunity to hear from local agencies regarding education requirements, as well as general and specific hiring practices for local criminal justice agencies and organizations."

Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community (TC) hosted their sixth Family/Community Seminar. Eight TC offender/residents and fourteen guests participated in the day-long event. The topic of the seminar was "The Challenges of Re-Entry". All the participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity and stated that the experience was enlightening and beneficial.

American Legion Post 130, the offender organization located at the Indiana State Prison, presented two checks at their monthly meeting to the Commander for the American Legion. One check for \$500 was for scholarships for members' families. The other check of \$500 was for 50 children to each receive a Christmas gift of ten dollars.

Wabash Valley Training and Internal Affairs staff teamed up to provide instruction to Vincennes and southern Indiana based Indiana Department of Transportation employees who supervise offender workers. They talked and answered questions about a wide variety of offender security and supervision topics.

"Christmas Behind Bars" founder Lemuel Vega along with approximately 80 of his prison ministry volunteers visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to distribute gift bags to the offender population.

Superintendent Stanley Knight at the Putnamville Correctional Facility extends congratulations to Correctional Officers Mike Ellis, William Hyatte, Doayne Houghton and Scott Rodgers on their promotion to Correctional Sergeant.

